CHAPTER XXII

PHILIPPINE CONTACTS WITH OTHER PEOPLES[1]

FOREIGN COMMUNITIES IN THE PHILIPPINES[2]

ACCORDING to the last official census, that of 1918, foreigners in the Philippines constituted a little less than one per cent of the population, but a little more than nine per cent of the population of Manila. More specifically, the census gave the divisions of the principal foreign nationalities as follows: Chinese 43,802 j Japanese, 7,8065 Spaniards, 3,9455 to which could be added 5,774 Americans and 2,710 of other races. Present estimates vary greatly, but according to the section of vital statistics of the Bureau of Health, the total foreign population of the Philippines is approximately 105,000. It is believed that there are in the Islands 75,000 Chinese, 20,000 Japanese, and 5,000 Spaniards.

These figures fail to tell the whole story. The Japanese very rarely intermarry with the Filipinos, but the Chinese and the Spaniards do. These last two blood streams are to be found in close to a million of the Philippine population, 700,000 being of part Chinese blood, and 200,000 being Spanish *mestizos.* So it goes without saying that the Chinese and Spanish elements are of major importance in the life of the country.

Still the figures last given fail to tell the whole story. The foreign communities exert an influence far in

excess of their numerical ratio. Formerly the Spaniards dominated the poll-

[1] This chapter was read by Hon. Claro M. Recto, President of the Constitutional Convention and Justice of the Supreme Court of the Philippines.

[2] For a spicy account of a Britisher's life in the Philippines, see a cleverly written but little-known book, Walter Young, *A Merry Banker in the Far East,*